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QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Concrete proposals for the effective implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development

Report of the Secretary-General

GE.93-10049 (E)

Introduction

1. In its resolution 1992/13 of 21 February 1992, the Commission on Human Rights, reaffirming the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development and recalling the report of the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right (E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1), requested the Secretary-General to put forward concrete proposals on the effective implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development to the Commission at its forty-ninth session.

2. The Global Consultations on the Right to Development as a Human Right, which took place in January 1990, adopted numerous recommendations for the implementation of the Declaration. The Secretary-General subsequently prepared two reports on the subject: the first was a comprehensive report (E/CN.4/1991/12 and Add.1) containing comments and proposals for further international and national action aimed at strengthening the existing mechanisms, or possibly creating new ones, for the promotion and protection of human rights; the second, (E/CN.4/1992/10) contained concrete proposals for the effective implementation and promotion of the right to development, on the basis of comments that were received from Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations.

3. The present report draws upon the recommendations that were made during the Global Consultation and the comments that were received on the subject of the implementation of the right to development in the course of 1990, 1991 and 1992, as well as academic literature on the subject.

4. The format of the report follows that of the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultations. The focus is as practical and as concrete as possible. Not all the proposals contained in this report necessarily converge and may even conflict. The report is intended to give the members of the Commission practical guidance when discussing the subject and when preparing a resolution containing concrete proposals on the implementation of the right to development for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Its ultimate aim is the adoption of a consistent set of recommendations in which the Commission would spell out its position and strategies to further the implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

5. Two developments may be borne in mind in all discussions by the Commission and which may be of crucial importance in moving forward the right to development. First, independently of the deliberations in the Commission and without appreciable input from it, many of the United Nations bodies working in the field of development have taken up the issue of human rights in general and the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development in particular in their programmes, policy statements or publications. Second, in June 1992 Governments demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development by adopting the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Principle 3 of the Rio Declaration proclaims the necessity for fulfilling the right to development in order to "equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations". These two developments, which could be viewed as having more or less set the agenda for development and human rights, make it most timely for the Commission on Human Rights to develop a strategy

on how to incorporate the issue of the right to development into the mainstream activities of the United Nations in the field of development. The Declaration on the Right to Development would be an excellent framework within which to emphasize, in the development context, the interdependence and indivisibility of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights.

6. The World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993 could become an important stimulus for addressing the implementation and promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development and much will depend on the readiness of the Commission to play a catalytic role.

The content of the right to development as a human right

7. Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as underlined during the Global Consultation, expresses the right to development as the right of individuals, groups and peoples to participate in, contribute to and enjoy continuous economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

8. The right to development highlights the interdependence, indivisibility and universality of the two International Covenants on human rights. Its legal basis derives from Articles 1, 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. Participation is at the heart of the right to development and the Commission on Human Rights should emphasize this in the general debate on development and human rights, and especially when discussing participation and democracy.

10. The spread of democracy in the world has not been ignored in the United Nations system. United Nations bodies, which traditionally never dealt with human rights now embrace the concept of human rights, albeit under the cover of "human freedom" (such as the United Nations Development Programme) or "good governance" (such as the World Bank). Similar developments can be discerned at the Commission of the European Communities, the Commonwealth Advisory Group and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

11. This growing awareness of human rights is to be welcomed. However, to ensure that the concept of participation is used constructively, it should be further refined to become more precise. Too often concepts such as "participatory development" "democratic governance" "human freedom" and "respect for human rights" are used as though they were synonymous.

12. Participation is directly related to the right to self-determination. Article 1 of both International Covenants recognizes the right of all peoples to self-determination, as does Article 1 of the Charter. By virtue of this right all peoples "freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development". Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights realizes the domestic aspect of the right to self-determination which also constitutes the right of popular participation endorsed in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, the right to self-determination encompasses the right of all peoples freely to dispose of their natural wealth and resources. An effective implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which

by principle 1 (2) includes this aspect of the right to self-determination, will help to realize this right.

13. Article 8(2) of the Declaration on the Right to Development states that States "should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of human rights". Agenda item 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development reaffirms this by claiming broad popular participation to be "one of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development" (chap. 23).

14. The Commission on Human Rights could take advantage of the current wave of democratization by further enhancing the right to popular participation. It should also play a vital role in ensuring that human rights standards in general are not used as mere rhetoric, and in protecting their contents.

Human rights and development strategy

15. As mentioned earlier, the involvement of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the issue of human rights is steadily increasing. This is particularly the case with developmental agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund. Their focus is now on "human development" and "investing in people", aimed at enlarging the range of people's choices to make development democratic and participatory. The World Bank has introduced the concept of "good governance", defined as "a public service that is efficient, a judicial system that is reliable and an administration that is accountable". This new people-centred approach is undoubtedly also an achievement in the task of incorporating the Declaration on the Right to Development in the development process.

16. This becomes even more interesting where developmental agencies actually translate these policies into the formulation, design and planning of the programmes. UNDP's proposal to develop country strategies for human development and to set human development goals is one example. Another is the follow-up of the Plan of Action that was adopted during the World Summit for Children, which is coordinated by UNICEF. Already more than 130 countries have prepared or are in the process of preparing national programmes of action to implement the Plan of Action.

17. The Commission on Human Rights could express its acknowledgement and appreciation to agencies which, in their policies and programmes, have already incorporated some of the principles related to those in the Declaration. They should be encouraged to become even more precise on the issue of the right to development. They could be requested to develop explicit guidelines, appraisal criteria and human rights impact assessments, as suggested by the Global Consultations (E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1, para. 190). They could equally be requested to take into consideration the suggestions that date back as far as 1981 when the Secretariat made proposals for action by the international community to give effect to the right to development and which included accepting international human rights standards as a valid criterion for United Nations development activities; the use of technical cooperation programmes specifically designed to promote respect for the right to development; promotion of the right to development by international financial institutions and the inclusion of respect for human rights as a factor in assessing developing progress (E/CN.4/1488, paras. 182-191).

18. The Commission could further stimulate those agencies and Governments which, in their developmental activities, have not yet endorsed the human-centred approach to do so, bearing in mind the relevant human rights instruments.

19. The appropriate United Nations organs and agencies should specifically recognize the intimate relationship which should be established between development activities and efforts to promote respect for human rights in general and economic, social and cultural rights in particular, taking into consideration the principles of indivisibility and interdependence of the two International Covenants on Human Rights. The Economic and Social Council should be requested to direct United Nations operational programmes to take explicit account of General Comment No. 2 (on art. 22 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted during its fourth session in 1990. They could equally be informed that not necessarily all development projects contribute to the realization of human rights and, in some cases, can even be considered as counterproductive in human rights terms.

20. The Commission on Human Rights could recommend that all United Nations agencies dealing with technical assistance programmes use the Declaration as a starting point when drawing up their programmes.

Obstacles

21. The Global Consultation identified the failure to respect the right of peoples to self-determination, the adoption of inappropriate development strategies and the failure to take into account the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development in agreements between States and international financial institutions, inter alia, as serious obstacles in the implementation of the right to development.

22. While some of the suggestions made in other parts of the report may help to tackle these obstacles, the biggest obstacles in the realization of the right to development lie at the interna ional macro-economic level, where the gap between developing and developed countries between the South and the North, the poor and the rich, is ever widening, aggravated by trade barriers, debt, lack of transfer of technologies and restrictive immigration policies. All these impede genuine progress. But impediments also lie at the national level, where disparities in income distribution are on the increase or where corruption goes unpunished.

23. The lack of coordination within the United Nations system as a whole is another serious obstacle, but even more worrisome is the lack of coordination within the Secretariat between the departments dealing with human rights, social development and economic affairs, which is mainly a result of compartmentalization. Possible solutions to these problems will be discussed elsewhere in the report.

Criteria to measure progress

24. The quest for development and the use of criteria to measure the realization of the right to development is justified and understandable. Indicators could be useful tools in monitoring implementation or measuring progress and in identifying obstacles that prohibit progress. However, they cannot assist in the actual implementation of a right. Utmost caution should

be used in any exercise related to indicators in the field of human rights to avoid the uncomfortable situation in which the United Nations Development Programme found itself after publishing its human freedom index. Any consideration of indicators within the human rights context must be based on a number of criteria, the most important of which are the need for legal consistency and a comparable and consistent methodology.

25. The Special Rapporteur on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, who was appointed by the Sub-Commission in 1988, has considered the question of the use of indicators in the realization of economic and social rights and concluded, in his first progress report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/19) that, "the issue of indicators is so extensive, complex and intricate that any analysis of their potential use in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights cannot be fully carried out in this report". His recommendation to organize an expert seminar to discuss these topics has led to the organization of the seminar on appropriate indicators to measure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights which is scheduled for 25 to 29 January 1993. The seminar will report to the World Conference on Human Rights in June of the same year.

26. Many of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have developed indicators to measure the goals that they have set in their programmes and, in some cases, even specific development indicators have been developed. However, these do not necessarily match with the content of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which approaches the subject from a human rights perspective.

27. While preparing criteria to measure progress in the implementation of the right to development, it is essential to bear in mind exactly what should be measured, and for what reason. It would also require agreement on definitions, concepts and methodologies. In this respect it should be noted that during the Global Consultation some participants challenged the universality of the indicators and suggested that the design of appropriate indicators of progress should be undertaken by the regional commissions.

28. In respect of the even more complicated issue concerning the measuring of violations or non-compliance with a specific Covenant, reference is made to the discussion on indicators by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during its sixth session in 1991. (see E/1992/23 - E/C.12/1991/4, paras. 335-344)

29. In order to address the issue of the use of indicators in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which has been supported by many delegations in the past couple of years, the Commission on Human Rights may recommend the preparation of a detailed, technical study on the need and applicability of indicators in this particular field.

Action at the national level

30. As was recommended by the Global Consultation, all States should ensure that their national policy and development plans should contain explicit provisions on the right to development.

31. On a practical level, the Commission on Human Rights could encourage States, while preparing their national plans of action to implement the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children, to take the Declaration on

the Right to Development as their starting point. A similar request could be made to Governments which will be preparing for a country strategy for human development, as has been suggested by the United Nations Development Programme. These country strategies would include compiling a human development profile, setting human development goals, preparing budget restructuring plans and formulating a viable political strategy. More specifically, Governments could be requested to address human rights questions and the right to development in particular, while formulating their human development goals.

32. The Commission could recommend that donor Governments, when drawing up their official development aid programmes and when signing agreements with the recipient countries, take the Declaration into consideration. In this respect, the Commission on Human Rights could base itself on Article 56 of the Charter which could be understood as a duty to cooperate for development and respect for human rights, both in developing as well as in developed nations.

33. The Commission on Human Rights could also insist that a certain percentage of the official development aid be allocated to human priorities such as basic education, primary health care and nutrition programmes as well as to address other human rights concerns such as strengthening the administration of justice, popular participation and national institution building.

Action at the international level

34. Although some Governments wish to exclude human rights issues from the development agenda (see statements of the Group of 77 at the 1991 UNDP Governing Council), development should not be excluded from the human rights agenda. The Commission on Human Rights, as the principal United Nations body entrusted with the promotion of human rights, should take a dynamic leadership role in the debate on development and human rights. The Declaration on the Right to Development could help to bring together these two fundamental areas of United Nations activity, which so far have not met.

World Conference on Human Rights

35. The agenda of the World Conference will be essential to the follow-up of the debate on the right to development. The Commission should therefore reiterate its call to the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights to fully consider the Declaration on the Right to Development in examining the relationship between development and the enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with the parameters as set out in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155. The Commission on Human Rights may wish to make some concrete proposals for discussion at the World Conference, such as to what extent the Declaration on the Right to Development has been taken into account within the United Nations system as a whole, and how this could be achieved in future policies. The role of the Commission in the implementation of the Declaration could also be agreed upon.

36. The Commission could further recommend to the World Conference on Human Rights the establishment of an annual inter-agency conference on the right to development with the Centre for Human Rights acting as coordinator and convener.

High-level committee of experts

37. As has been suggested in the past, the Commission may consider recommending the setting up of a high-level committee composed of independent experts to report annually to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the right to development at the national and international levels.

38. The high level committee of experts should also formulate criteria for the assessment of progress in the realization of the right to development, make recommendations for a global strategy to achieve progress in the enjoyment of this right, examine obstacles to its enjoyment, identify activities which may be incompatible with the right to development and promote wider knowledge and understanding of the right including a programme of development education with particular emphasis on reaching grass-root organizations working in the field of development at the communities and local levels.

39. Although the Secretary-General is not convinced of the need to create another expert body, especially in view of the present need to restructure and trim existing bodies and organs, the high-level committee of experts could function in four different ways: (i) similar to Treaty monitoring bodies in examining country reports; (ii) as a human rights "megacommittee", since the Declaration incorporates all other United Nations instruments, and serving as a formal bridge between United Nations human rights and socio-economic programmes; (iii) as a body providing expert advice to the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, similar to the Committee on Development Planning which advises the General Assembly on topical issues in general development matters; and (iv) as a working group analogous to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, providing a platform where Governments, non-governmental organizations and experts can meet and discuss.

40. Alternatively, the Commission may consider recommending the establishment of an inter-agency advisory group, similar to the one on AIDS which was established by the World Health Organization. Its membership would be open to all United Nations organizations. Its terms of reference could be (i) to serve as a forum for a United Nations system-wide exchange of information concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development; (ii) to identify possible joint activities; and (iii) to develop links between the various activities. Mutatis mutandis, this advisory group could become an inter-agency commission.

41. Consideration may also be given to directing the Centre to convene an inter-agency consultation to explore the integration of human rights elements into development activities. A similar exercise could be requested for non-governmental organizations, in particular those based in developing countries.

Special rapporteur

42. Alternatively, the Commission on Human Rights could appoint a special rapporteur to examine the status of implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, to identify the obstacles encountered and to propose measures to overcome them.

Commission on Sustainable Development

43. "Agenda 21" of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development offers a framework for the coordination of United Nations activities and the mobilization of other organizations which will culminate in the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development as its coordinating body.

44. The Commission should recognize the implementation process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as an important channel through which the Commission can promote the right to development in its human rights framework, especially in view of the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development will play a vital role in the general economic and social field, as has been stressed on previous occasions.

45. The Commission on Human Rights could request that the issue of the right to development be put on the agenda of both the Commission on Sustainable Development and the High-Level Advisory Body on Sustainable Development.

46. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, which has been established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and in which all United Nations development agencies are represented, should be recognized by the Commission on Human Rights as an important forum for the integration of the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, particularly in implementing the right to development, on the international level. The Commission could recommend that the Centre for Human Rights be represented at this Committee. This will be an essential element in bridging the gap between the human rights and the development machinery.

International financial institutions

47. The Commission could recognize the right to development as the starting point for any endeavour to achieve fundamental reform of the existing international economic framework.

48. The Commission on Human Rights could call for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to review and implement their original mandates. If the IMF were to resolve payment imbalances in an equitable and controlled manner, the burden of adjustment would not only be on the deficit countries but would be reasonably shared between surplus and deficit countries. If the World Bank would take up seriously its initial task of recycling global surpluses of the rich nations to deficit nations, the poorer countries would not be obliged to borrow on the private financial markets. Both actions would greatly assist in achieving sound and sustainable development in both developed and developing nations.

49. Acknowledging recent policy shifts in this direction, the international financial institutions should be further encouraged to divert their emphasis from economic growth to human development.

50. The Commission could request the World Bank to gradually incorporate human rights criteria in its work at all stages, including project and policy lending, preparation of policy guidelines, and project and policy appraisal, monitoring and assessment. Concerning the possible methods of incorporating human rights criteria in the work of the World Bank, either the Commission itself or the World Bank could commission a study.

51. Instead of focusing solely on the concept of governance, which only addresses authorities, the World Bank should be encouraged to incorporate the concept of popular participation in its planning, which would largely contribute to the success of its programmes. In this respect, the need for greater transparency in negotiations and agreements between States and international financial aid institutions should be emphasized.

52. In the design and subsequent stages of the structural adjustment process, the International Monetary Fund should be encouraged to ensure that social concerns are included as a matter of priority.

Treaty monitoring bodies

53. Recognizing that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, the Commission could recommend to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that they take into consideration the Declaration on the Right to Development when examining States parties' reports. Through monitoring this right, the right of all peoples freely to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and freely to dispose of their natural wealth and resources may be fully realized at the national level.

54. In addition, the Commission on Human Rights could recommend that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, when dealing with reports of both developing and developed States, bear in mind their obligation under Article 56 of the Charter.

Focal point in the Centre for Human Rights

55. The Commission on Human Rights could recommend to the Secretary-General that a focal point be established within the Centre of Human Rights to deal with all issues related to human rights, development and democracy. The focal point would coordinate with other United Nations Departments, bodies and specialized agencies which have a mandate bearing directly upon the right to development (such as DESD, CDP, CSD, UNCTAD, ILO, WHO, WB, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO and UNESCO); carefully examine developments in these bodies including their policy-making organs; vigorously pursue the incorporation of the concept of the right to development in their activities as well as human rights concerns in general and provide a forum for a coordinated human rights action plan which would correspond to the specific mandates of each intergovernmental agency.

56. The focal point would also be responsible for in-house activities. It would follow the discussions of the Commission and the Sub-Commission, as well as of treaty monitoring bodies, and communicate the relevant resolutions and recommendations adopted by these bodies to the other United Nations organs; it would encourage all human rights organs, and in particular the treaty monitoring bodies, to include the right to development in their review of the reports of States parties and participate in the Advisory Group on the United Nations Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

57. In the event the Commission decides to establish a monitoring mechanism for the Declaration on the Right to Development, the servicing could be coordinated by this focal point.

Regional commissions

58. As has been stated on previous occasions, the strength of the regional commissions lies in their multidisciplinary reach and in their ability to mediate between global and national activities. It has also been stated that the regional economic commissions could play an important role in the design of appropriate indicators of progress, thereby decentralizing the participatory process for the design of indicators and review of programmes involving the effective participation of representative organizations, workers' organizations, peoples and groups.

59. The Commission could address itself more often to the regional commissions and seek their participation if deemed necessary. The Commission could recommend that the regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations convene meetings of governmental experts and representative non-governmental and grass-roots organizations for the purpose of seeking agreement on arrangements for the implementation of the Declaration through international cooperation.

60. More specifically, the Commission on Human Rights could recommend to the regional commissions that they organize expert seminars on the role of the international financial institutions in the realization of the right to development.

General Assembly/Economic and Social Council

61. In accordance with the recommendations of the Global Consultation, the Commission on Human Rights could recommend that the question of the implementation of the right to development as a human right be placed on the agenda of the First and the Second Committees of the Economic and Social Council and of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, thereby ensuring that the subject is discussed in other than the traditional human rights forum.

Advisory services and technical assistance programmes

62. In its overall programme of advisory services and technical assistance, the Centre focuses on projects aimed at building up or strengthening national infrastructures, at constitutional and legal reform, democratic development, dissemination of information, training activities and strengthening of the machinery for the administration of justice.

63. Recently, the Centre has undertaken a number of projects relating to constitutional reforms, institution-building and democratic development. Worth mentioning in this respect is the organization in December 1991 of a Latin American seminar on human rights, democracy and economic and social development.

64. The emphasis in the advisory services programme seems to lie primarily on the implementation of civil and political rights. This may be explained by the desire of Governments which seek the assistance of the advisory services Programme to focus on particular aspects of these rights. It should also be pointed out that on the technical assistance level it is not easy to formulate a programme focused on the realization of economic and social rights. After all, projects aimed at developing technical and vocational guidance and training programmes to achieve implementation of the right to work or trying

to reduce the still-birth rate and infant mortality to achieve implementation of the right to health, do seem to fall more within the competence of the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies working in the field of development. However, the Commission on Human Rights could request the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations to communicate sample projects to the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Branch on the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, focusing on specific areas such as the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights popular participation or the right to take part in the cultural life. This could assist the Centre for Human Rights in formulating a programme of advisory services in the field of the right to development.

65. The advisory services programme should be further encouraged to promote the Declaration on the Right to Development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By its resolution 1991/18, the Commission on Human Rights endorsed the view of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that in the context of the advisory services and technical assistance programmes a series of national workshops should be organized to develop a better understanding of the Covenant. By its resolution 1992/10, the Commission invited the Economic and Social Council to identify ways in which international cooperation and technical assistance would contribute, particularly in developing countries, to the effective implementation of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Commission could request the Secretary-General to report on the status of the implementation of these resolutions.

Promotion of the right to development

66. Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations describes economic development and respect for human rights as the twin foundations of peaceful and friendly relations among nations. The United Nations has a duty to promote development under this provision, and the Commission could recognize the promotion of the right to development as a mechanism for its implementation.

67. The Commission could recommend that the Department of Public Information, in the biennium 1994-1995, should endeavour to organize its activities around the theme of the right to development in connection with sustainable development. This could include the observance of Human Rights Day on the basis of this particular theme, the publication of a series of articles in various publications such as Development Forum, the organization of press briefings, round table conferences or panel discussions and the preparation of information kits for the 67 United Nations information centres all over the world. In the Department's video and television programmes, such as World Chronicle, the right to development could be featured and the production of a special film could be considered which, through the network of the Department of Public Information, could be broadcast all over the world.

The role of non-governmental organizations

68. The role of non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations is vital for the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, especially where it relates to participatory development. Governments should be encouraged to involve non-governmental organizations in

the field of human rights and development when elaborating, implementing and assessing national development plans.

69. National forums could be established to ensure an effective dialogue between Governments and non-governmental organizations so that policy-makers become informed of the exercise of grass-roots participatory development.

70. Non-governmental organizations, both in developing and developed countries, should hold donor Governments and agencies accountable for their policies and actions.

71. Coordination between non-governmental organizations from the South and the North should be strengthened to increase the effectiveness of their intervention at the community level as well as at the international level.

72. Non-governmental organizations should take upon themselves a leading role in the dissemination of the principles of the Declaration on the Right to Development and in building a greater understanding on the part of international public opinion.